

## Message Text

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61

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /084 W

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R 310204Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6394

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS ELECTION PREPARATIONS  
BEGINS

SUMMARY: ON AUG 28, LDP ANNOUNCED FIRST GROUP OF CANDIDATES  
FOR 1974 HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS ELECTION. OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE  
ALSO BEGUN PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTION.

1. ON AUG 28 LDP ANNOUNCED FIRST GROUP OF PARTY-ENDORSED  
CANDIDATES FOR HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS ELECTION TO BE HELD  
IN JUNE OR JULY 1974. ROSTER INCLUDED NAMES OF 29 CANDIDATES  
FOR NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY AND 40 FOR LOCAL CONSTITUENCIES.  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF SECOND GROUP OF CANDIDATES IS EXPECTED IN LATE  
SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER. PARTY PLANS TO ULTIMATELY  
SUPPORT 34 NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY AND 63 OR 64 LOCAL CONSTITUENCY  
CANDIDATES. TEMPO OF UNOFFICIAL LDP ELECTIONEERING IS EXPECTED  
TO INCREASE FOLLOWING RETURN OF PRIMIN TANAKA FROM TRIP TO  
EUROPE AND SOVIET UNION.

2. OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE ALSO BEGUN ACTIVE PREPARATIONS  
FOR NEXT SUMMER'S ELECTION. ACCORDING TO PRESS: (A) UNOFFICIAL  
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NATIONWIDE SPEECH-MAKING TOURS BY SEVERAL JSP GROUPS, HEADED

BY CHAIRMAN TOMOMI NARITA AND SEC GEN MASASHI ISHIBASHI  
WILL GET UNDERWAY IN SEPT. JSP EXPECTED TO PROMOTE PLATFORM  
CALLING FOR NATIONALIZATION OF BASIC PRODUCTION FACILITIES AS  
MEANS OF COPING WITH INFLATION; (B) JCP, WHICH WILL  
DECIDE PLATFORM AT NOV CONVENTION, FORECAST TO CALL FOR REFORMIST  
COALITION GOVERNMENT. EIGHT JCP CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL  
CONSTITUENCY BEGAN STUMPING TOURS LAST WEEK; (C) KOMEITO,  
HOLDING PARTY CONVENTION FIRST WEEK IN SEPT, WILL FOLLOW UP  
BY LAUNCHING MAJOR ELECTION CAMPAIGN; AND (D) DSP SPEECH-  
MAKING TOURS WILL START IN OCT.

3. CURRENT UPPER HOUSE PARTY STRENGTH IS: (135),  
JSP (61), KOMEITO (23), DSP (11), JCP (11), NIIN CLUB (4),  
INDEPENDENTS (2), VACANCIES (5) - TOTAL (252). OF 129 SEATS  
TO BE CONTESTED, PRESENT ALLOCATION IS: LDP (72), JSP (25),  
KOMEITO (13), DSP (6), D0 (4), NIIN CLUB (3), INDEPENDENTS (1),  
VACANCIES (5). IF LDP LOSES MORE THAN EIGHT SEATS, PARTY WILL  
DROP FROM PRESENT 135 TOTAL TO BELOW BARE MAJORITY OF 127.

4. COMMENT: SLIM LDP UPPER HOUSE MAJORITY, VIEWED  
AGAINST BACKGROUND OF LDP SETBACKS IN DEC 1972 GENERAL  
ELECTION AND IN JUNE 1973 OSAKA BY-ELECTION, HAS STIMULATED  
DISCUSSION BY MEDIA, POLITICAL OBSERVERS AND PARTY FIGURES  
CONCERNING QTE CRISIS OF CONSERVATIVE POLITICS UNQTE,  
STRESSING IDEA THAT OUTCOME OF UPPER HOUSE ELECTION COULD MARK  
MAJOR TURNING POINT IN JAPANESE POSTWAR POLITICAL SCENE  
WITH POSSIBILITY OF LDP LOSING EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF DIET.  
WITHIN LDP, HOWEVER, AT THIS EARLY STAGE, THR IS VERY LITTLE SENSE  
OF CRISIS YET APPARENT. MOOD SHOULD CHANGE AS CAMPAIGN GETS  
FULLY UNDERWAY IN COMING MONTHS.  
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